

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An ink cartridge to be mounted on a moveable carriage, the ink cartridge comprising:

a container having a bottom wall and defining at least one ink chamber;

a protruded portion protruded from the bottom wall and defining an ink supply passage;

and

an ink supply port, provided at the protruded portion, the ink supply port having an opening wall substantially perpendicular to the bottom wall, the opening wall being located within an area of the bottom wall, and

a guide portion located between the bottom wall and the opening wall.

2. (original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:

a normally-closed valve system provided near the ink supply port.

3. (previously presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:

a recess communicating with the ink chamber and formed in an upper wall of the container; and

a breakable film sealing the recess.

4. (previously presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 3, further comprising:
a capillary of a narrow groove formed in the upper wall of the container, wherein the recess communicates with the ink chamber through the capillary.

5. (previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus adapted for use with an ink cartridge, comprising:

a reciprocatively movable carriage;
an ink jet recording head provided on a lower wall of the carriage within an accommodation area of the ink cartridge;
an ink guide member through which ink in the ink cartridge being mounted on the carriage is supplied to the ink jet recording head, the ink guide member having a horizontally protruded leading end; and
a protrusion provided on the carriage, wherein the protrusion horizontally protrudes near the ink guide member, for engagement of the ink cartridge and the carriage.

6. (previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus adapted for use with an ink cartridge, comprising:

a reciprocatively movable carriage;
an ink jet recording head provided on a lower wall of the carriage within an accommodation area of the ink cartridge;

an ink guide member through which ink in the ink cartridge being mounted on the carriage is supplied to the ink jet recording head, the ink guide member having a horizontally protruded leading end;

a protrusion, horizontally protruded near the ink guide member, for engagement with the ink cartridge; and

a breaking system for breaking a film which sealingly covers an atmosphere communicating recess formed in an upper wall of the ink cartridge.

7. (original) The recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the breaking system breaks the film before the ink guide member engages the ink cartridge to allow ink to be supplied to the ink jet recording head.

8. (previously presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply passage extends substantially parallel to the bottom wall.

9. (previously presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply passage is disposed at a predetermined distance from the bottom wall and located within an area below the bottom wall.

10. (original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply port is connectable to an ink guide member communicating with a recording head of an ink jet recording apparatus.

11. (currently amended) The ink cartridge according to claim ~~12~~1, wherein the guide portion is guided by a protrusion of an ink jet recording apparatus when the ink supply port is connected to an ink guide member communicating with a recording head of the ink jet recording apparatus.

Claim 12 (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the opening wall is substantially perpendicular to a general ink flow direction through the ink supply port.